

# ecoNews — Wire —

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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**For immediate release**

## **1. Help for manure applicators is just a click away**

### **HELP FOR MANURE APPLICATORS IS JUST A CLICK AWAY**

DES MOINES – Commercial and confinement site manure applicators can find answers to their questions on the Iowa Manure Management Action Group's Web site.

"We've had quite a few changes in the commercial side of the program, so I've been getting a lot of phone calls," said Jeff Prier, environmental specialist in the Spencer DNR field office.

For the first time, companies will have to be licensed, and education fees will be charged in addition to certification fees.

"On the positive side, the certification fee for most commercial applicators will be reduced in 2004 and companies will be able to substitute representatives in some circumstances," Prier said.

Prier added that the question he hears most often from the commercial side is, "Does the company have to get a license?" or "Does everyone still have to attend training?"

He tells callers that "yes" is the answer to both questions. Commercial manure applicator businesses must be licensed starting in 2004. Any person working for a commercial company who is transporting, handling, storing or applying manure for the company must meet the training or testing requirements, Prier added.

A whole series of questions about the changes in the program can be found on the IMMAG Web site at <http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/immag/macqa.html>.

There will also be information available at the Jan. 6, 2004, satellite uplink. Prier encourages commercial applicators to check with their local Extension office if they haven't already made a reservation for the training.

**For more information, contact Gene Tinker, coordinator of the DNR's animal feeding operations at 515-281-3103.**